

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Cancel Claim 37.

Amend Claims 23, 26, 30, 34 and 36.

1.–22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A tolerance ring, comprising:
a body having an axis, a hollow cylindrical shape, a body diameter, a first axial end and a second axial end opposite the first axial end, and an interior of the body forms a body load bearing area for contacting an inner component;
a plurality of protrusions formed in the body, all of which ~~[[and]]~~ extend~~[[ing]]~~ radially outward from the body relative to the axis such that there are no protrusions that extend radially inward from the body, the protrusions have a maximum protrusion diameter that exceeds the body diameter, and an exterior of the protrusions form a protrusions load bearing area for contacting an outer component to distribute a load from the protrusions load bearing area to the body load bearing area; and
a guide extending axially and radially from the first axial end of the body, the guide having a maximum guide diameter that does not exceed the maximum protrusion diameter, a guide surface that is contiguous with the body load bearing area to facilitate alignment between the inner component and the body when the inner component is inserted through the guide and into the body load bearing area.
24. (Previously Presented) A tolerance ring according to Claim 23, wherein the guide is a funnel that flares from the first axial end and has a frustoconical shape, and the maximum guide diameter is greater than the body diameter.

25. (Previously Presented) A tolerance ring according to Claim 23, wherein an angle of inclination of the guide surface relative to the axis is constant along a length of the guide surface.
26. (Currently Amended) A tolerance ring according to Claim 23, wherein the guide extends from an entire circumference of the first axial end of the body, ~~and all of the protrusions extend radially outward from the body, and the body further~~ comprises annular portions extending axially and formed at the body diameter, and the annular portions are located between each of the first and second axial ends and the protrusions.
27. (Previously Presented) A tolerance ring according to Claim 23, wherein the guide is sufficiently smooth to prevent the production of particles when the inner component slides against the guide surface.
28. (Previously Presented) A tolerance ring according to Claim 23, wherein the body load bearing area is sufficiently sized to prevent torque ripple.
29. (Previously Presented) A tolerance ring according to Claim 23, wherein the second axial end of the body is formed at the body diameter and is a free and unobstructed end of the body.
30. (Currently Amended) A tolerance ring for a hard disk drive pivot mount, the tolerance ring comprising:
an annular band of resilient material having an axis, a body with a body diameter, a body interior surface, first and second axial ends, and a plurality of protrusions extending radially from the body and having a protrusion diameter; [[and]]
a guide formed on and extending axially and radially from the first axial end of the body, the guide having a guide surface on a guide interior surface thereof that is contiguous with the body interior surface, and the guide has a guide maximum

diameter that is greater than the body diameter and does not exceed the protrusion diameter[.]; and

the second axial end of the body is formed at the body diameter and is a free and unobstructed end of the body.

31. (Previously Presented) A tolerance ring according to Claim 30, wherein the body interior surface forms a body load bearing area for contacting an inner component, and the protrusions form a protrusions load bearing area for contacting an outer component to distribute a load from the protrusions load bearing area to the body load bearing area.
32. (Previously Presented) A tolerance ring according to Claim 31, wherein the guide wherein the guide is a funnel that flares from the first axial end and has a frustoconical shape, the maximum guide diameter is greater than the body diameter, and the guide facilitates alignment between the inner component and the body when the inner component is inserted through the guide and into the body load bearing area.
33. (Previously Presented) A tolerance ring according to Claim 30, wherein an angle of inclination of the guide surface relative to the axis is constant along a length of the guide surface.
34. (Currently Amended) A tolerance ring according to Claim 30, wherein the guide extends from an entire circumference of the first axial end of the body, and all of the protrusions extend radially outward from the body such that there are no protrusions that extend radially inward from the body.
35. (Previously Presented) A tolerance ring according to Claim 31, wherein the guide is sufficiently smooth to prevent the production of particles when the inner component slides against the guide surface.

36. (Currently Amended) A tolerance ring according to Claim 31, wherein the body load bearing area is sufficiently sized to prevent torque ripple, and the body further comprises annular portions extending axially and formed at the body diameter, and the annular portions are located between each of the first and second axial ends and the protrusions.
37. (Canceled)